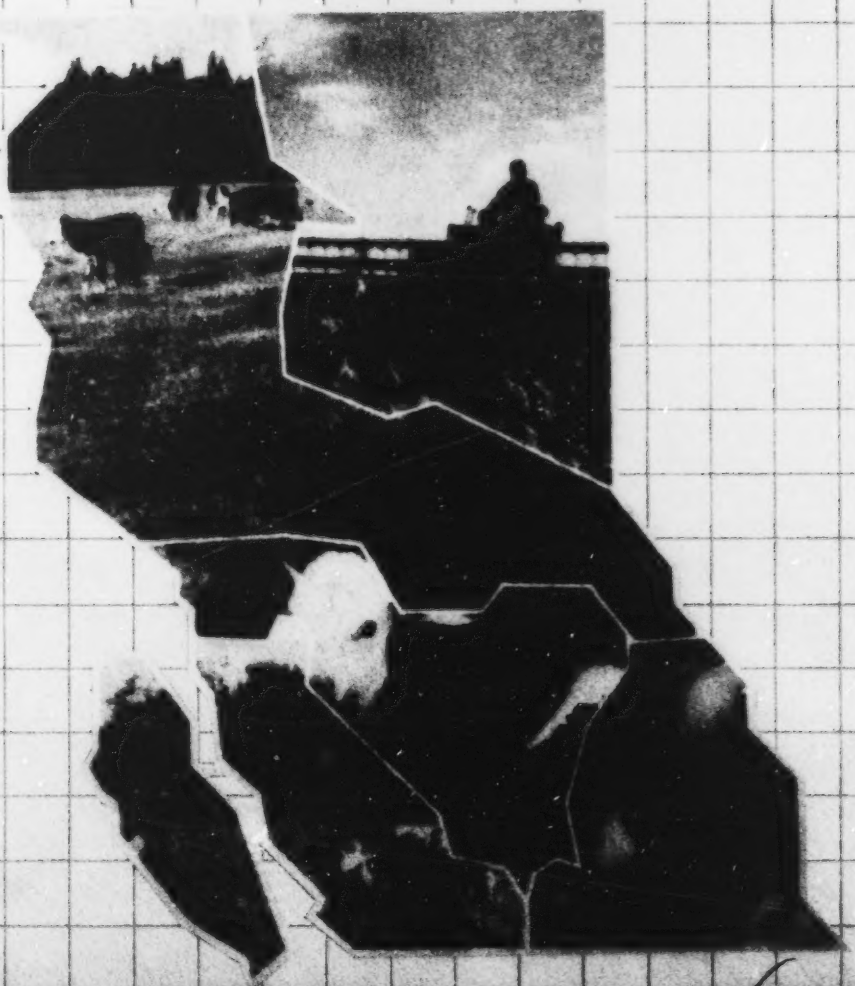
Agriculture Profile

Williams Lake District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food



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AGRICULTURE PROFILE

WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT

VICTORIA, B.C.

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

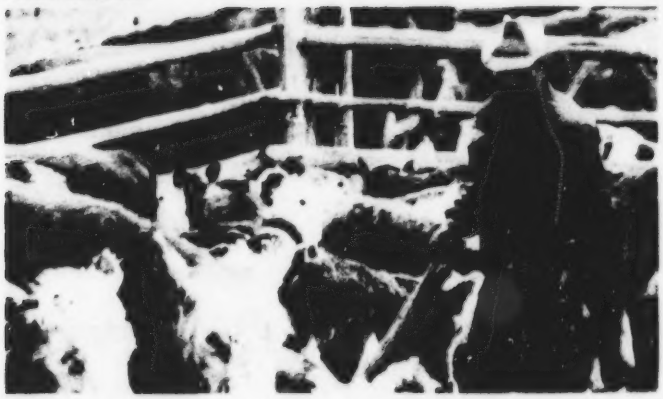
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Williams Lake District are to the area covered by census divisions 41-Cariboo and 45-Central Coast.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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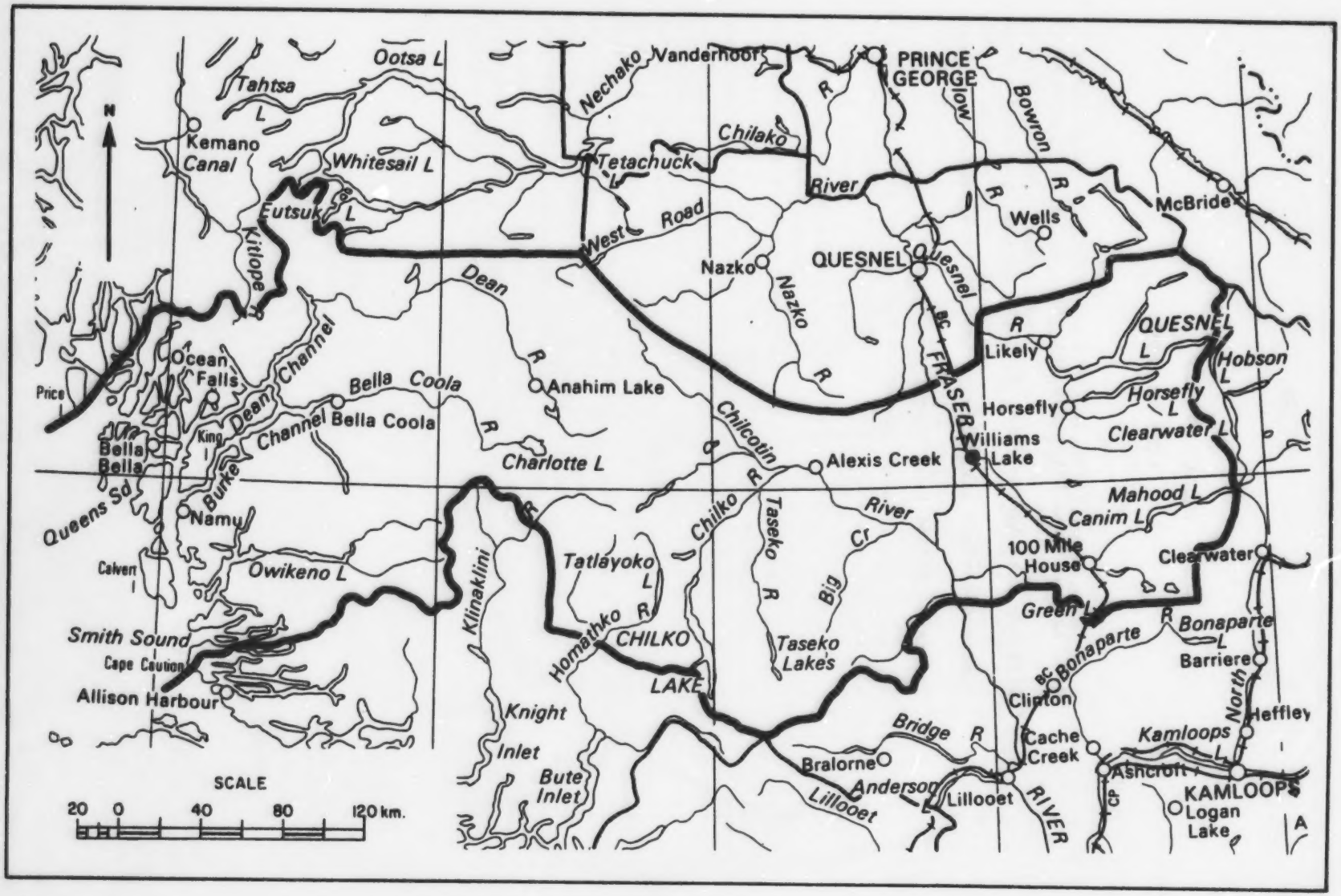
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Williams Lake Agricultural District occupies 7.3 million hectares in the Thompson-Cariboo Agricultural Reporting Region. The district occupies the two physiographic regions known as the Interior Plateau and Coast Mountains. The plateau is level to rolling and ranges between 1200 and 1800 metres above sea level.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 47,491, an increase of 10.7 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted slightly over the last few years, the urban segment now represents 38.5 percent of the total population up from 38 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 18,525, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and utility sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of beef production. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 64 percent of farms. Field crops, almost exclusively fodder crops accounted for 9 percent of holdings while miscellaneous specialty production was reported by 10 percent of operations. Cattle production was the primary activity of 89 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $30 million in 1981, 3.4 percent of the provincial total. Cattle and calves and dairy accounted for 69 and 9 percent of receipts respectively.

The Williams Lake District accounts for 237,263 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 11 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 639. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Williams Lake where 33 percent of holdings are more than 225 hectares. Average farm size is 371 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 25 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

In the past, agricultural expansion has been largely dependant on Crown Land. High land prices coupled with stringent acquistion requirements have caused operators to concentrate on higher production levels from deeded land. Wider availability of electric power in the district has increased forage crop production, particulary along the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers. Range improvement projects have also been effective as a result of coordinated range management plans.

The feasibility of retaining feeder cattle for finishing within the district has been improving, however there is still reluctance among some operators to compete with prairie provinces for an inexpensive source of feed grains. Nevertheless, there exists and opportunity for backgrounding calves on corn silage and alfalfa. Seed production, particularly alfalfa for the local market has generated recent interest.

The vegetable, greenhouse and nursery industries should experience continued growth as population levels increase in the Interior.

TABLE 1

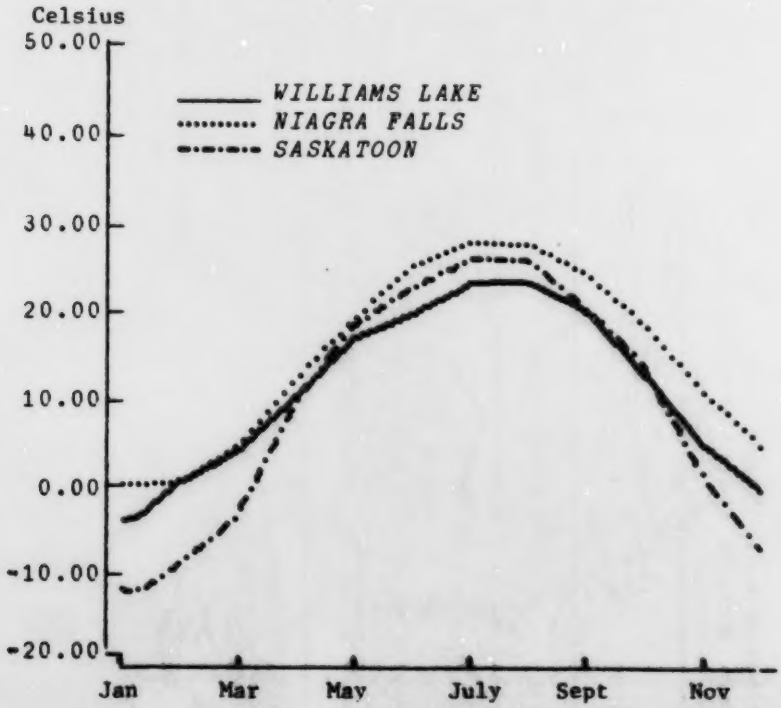
CLIMATIC DATA

WILLIAMS LAKE/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

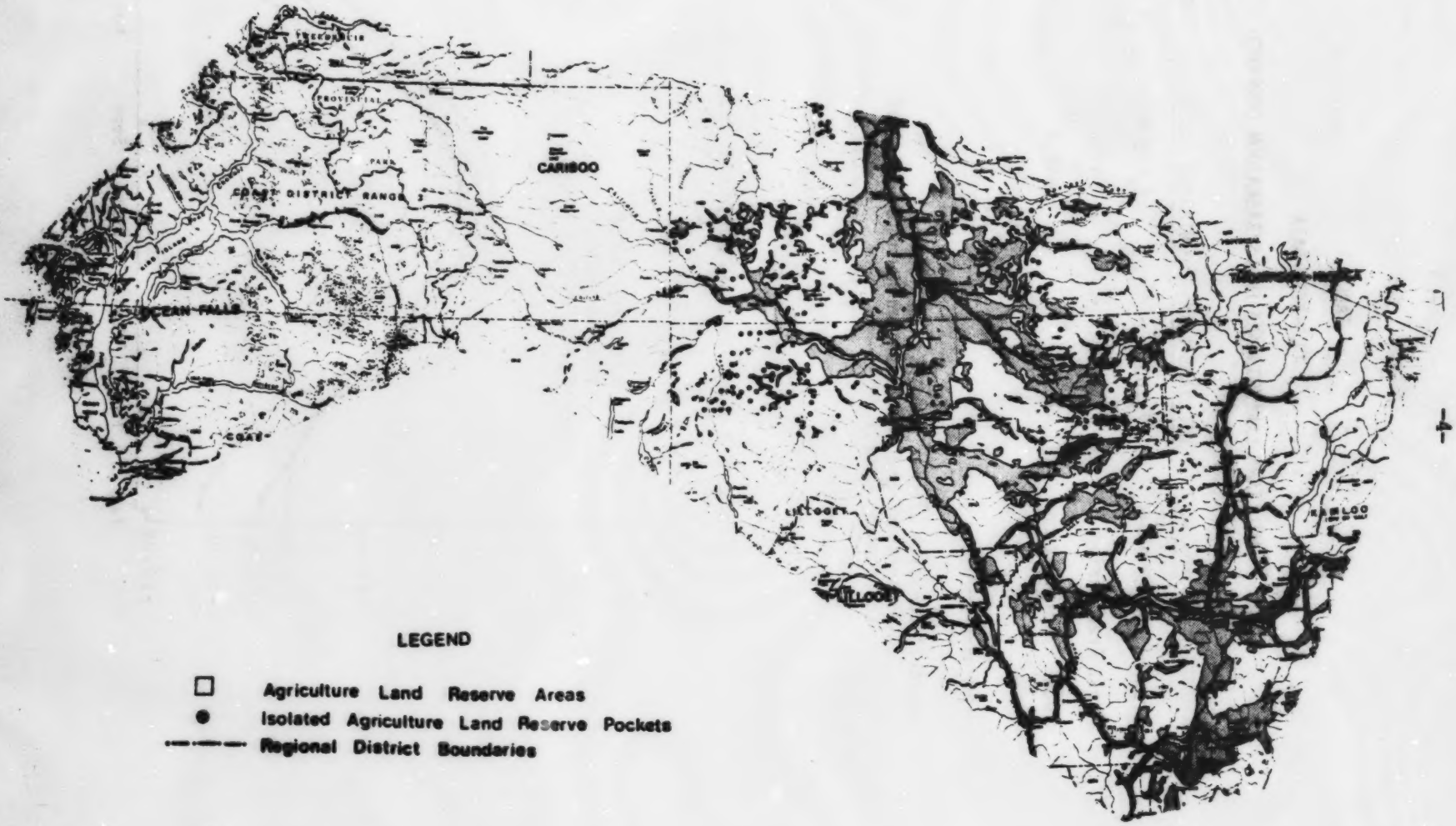
	WILLIAMS LAKE	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,260.8	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	94	172	117
Total Precipitation	412.8	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES COMPARED



THOMPSON-CARIBOO ALR AREAS



LEGEND

- Agriculture Land Reserve Areas
- Isolated Agriculture Land Reserve Pockets
- Regional District Boundaries

TABLE 2

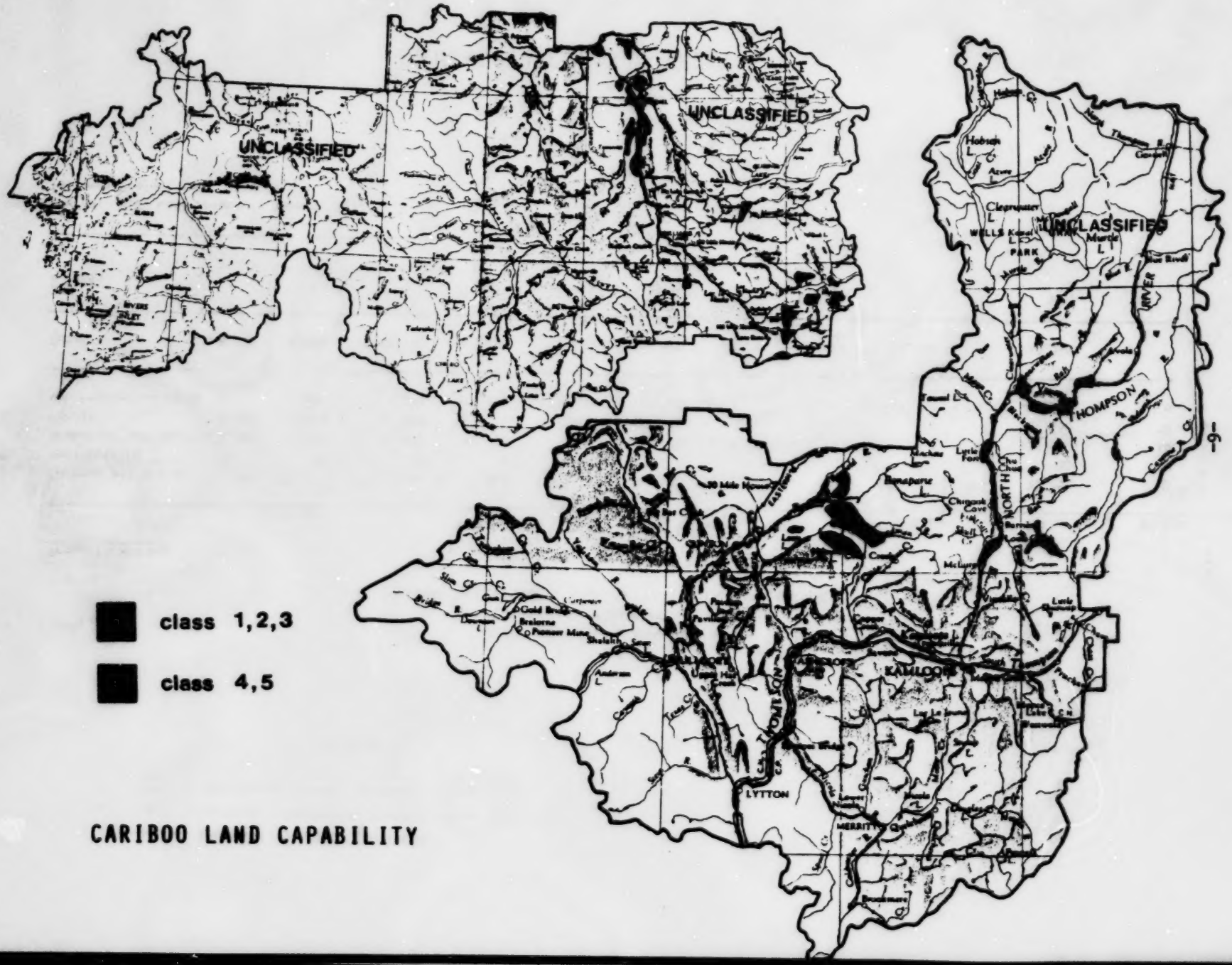
CARIBOO AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES

SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	1,840	3,630	7,120	7,480	20,070	4,600	2,370	410	0	27,450	3
Horticulture	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	30	0
Grassland and Pasture	4,380	2,080	8,460	30,790	45,710	71,520	17,050	3,370	0	137,650	15
Forest	2,430	8,630	45,320	223,510	279,890	367,120	60,210	14,930	0	722,150	76
Non-Productive Lands	80	250	1,210	7,320	8,860	23,420	1,610	110	25,270	59,270	6
Total	8,370	14,590	62,140	269,100	354,560	466,660	81,240	18,820	25,270	946,550	
% Total	1	1	7	28	37	49	9	2	3		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Talisman Project Inc., 1980.



CARIBOO LAND CAPABILITY

TABLE 3

THOMPSON CARIBOO AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	4,624	8,549	85,900	403,112	2,611,740	2,537,968	2,291,239	240,644	8,096,668	16,280,443
Improved**	31,727	91,200	291,625	690,627	2,054,510	2,494,663	2,288,777	240,441	8,096,668	16,280,440
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.03	0.05	0.53	2.48	16.04	15.59	14.07	1.48	49.73	100.0
Improved**	0.20	0.56	1.79	4.24	12.62	15.32	14.06	1.47	49.73	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	2	250.3
1982	28	4,167.5
1981	24	1,586.8
1980	36	3,125.8
1980-1983	90	9,130.4
TOTAL	340	36,965.0

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	2	99.8
1982	23	1,451.7
1981	24	1,650.6
1980	16	1,450.2
1980-1983	65	4,652.4
TOTAL	126	8,956.0

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	3	27.4
1981	2	9.3
1980	5	54.3
1980-1983	10	90.9
TOTAL	18	165.5

Total lease area in Willians Lake: 1980-1983: 13,873.63
Total lease area in Williams Lake: 46,086.45

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS WILLIAMS LAKE, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
Total Area of Farms	6,830	3,002	7,956	14,520	49,896	155,059	237,263
Total Improved Land Area	2,672	1,101	3,394	5,611	20,439	26,709	59,925
Total Area Under Crop	1,224	665	1,633	3,303	9,863	13,817	30,505
Number of Farms Reporting	80	36	70	78	168	86	518
Area of Improved Pasture	1,104	234	1,397	1,817	8,778	10,708	24,038
Number of Farms Reporting	55	22	57	59	114	57	364
Area In Summer Fallow	72	53	43	26	271	962	1,428
Number of Farms Reporting	4	6	5	3	12	8	38
Other Improved Land Area	272	149	320	464	1,528	1,223	3,955
Number of Farms Reporting	77	31	67	65	116	72	428
Total Unimproved Land Area	4,157	1,902	4,563	8,910	29,458	128,350	177,339
Woodland Area	568	607	658	1,410	4,167	11,590	19,001
Number of Farms Reporting	24	12	20	29	48	23	156
Other Unimproved Land Area	3,589	1,295	3,905	7,500	25,290	116,760	158,338
Number of Farms Reporting	95	29	71	79	151	83	508

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1981	176	93	95	275

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

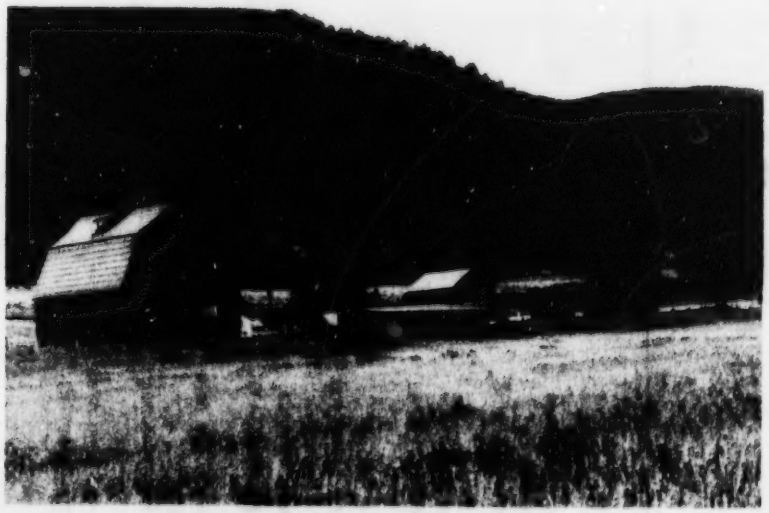


TABLE 7

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	10	1	3	4	3	2	23
Cattle	42	18	52	64	156	81	413
Hogs	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
Poultry	13	5	5	6	3	1	33
Wheat	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Small Grains	-	1	1	1	3	-	6
Other Field Crops	19	8	10	9	7	3	56
Fruits and Vegetables	5	3	1	-	1	-	10
Miscellaneous Specialty	23	5	15	10	7	3	63
Livestock Combination	7	3	4	1	4	1	20
Field Crop Combinations	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Combinations	6	-	2	-	-	-	8
TOTAL	129	47	93	95	184	91	639

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
3-9 Acres	8	1	1	1	1	-	12
10-69 Acres	50	19	18	15	7	2	111
70-129 Acres	20	7	21	9	11	1	69
130-179 Acres	26	11	20	11	13	-	81
180-239 Acres	3	1	6	9	7	1	27
240-399 Acres	7	3	16	14	32	4	76
400-559 Acres	6	1	4	9	31	6	57
560-759 Acres	3	3	5	12	22	6	51
760-1119 Acres	2	1	-	12	28	16	59
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	2	3	17	8	30
1600 Acres and Over	-	-	-	-	15	47	62
TOTAL	129	47	93	95	184	91	639

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

WILLIAMS LAKE: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has an average proportion of high income operations. In 1981, 43 percent of farms had sales in excess of $10,000 compared to 40 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $25,600 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Williams Lake District reported some off farm income, with 62 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 90 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 75 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 14 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 73 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 70 fewer holdings than in 1976. Irrigation has accounted for over 39 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures over the last few years. Approximately 49 percent of funds are allocated to land clearing, which has totalled 3,600 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 4,378 tonnes of fertilizer on 25,980 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $145 million in 1976 to $300 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $159,000 to $470,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings has declined from 78 percent in 1976 to 72 percent in 1981. Livestock investment has increased to 19 percent of total investment since 1976, machinery investment has declined accordingly. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,265, less than one-half the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 35-44 age group, the total number of farmers increased by 9 percent, the district now represents 3.8 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	1	-	-	-	1
$10,000-24,999	6	1	-	-	7
$25,000-49,999	19	5	1	-	25
$50,000-99,999	45	30	5	-	80
$100,000-199,999	67	62	22	3	154
$200,000-499,999	35	71	97	17	220
$500,000 AND OVER	3	19	59	71	152
TOTAL	176	188	184	91	639

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	176	188	184	91	639
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	25,783,626	45,264,893	87,926,749	141,160,925	300,136,193
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	22,307,188	35,676,620	65,556,184	93,850,743	217,390,735
VALUE OF MACHINERY	2,279,928	5,011,522	9,028,911	9,442,412	25,762,773
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,196,510	4,576,751	13,341,654	37,867,770	56,982,685
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	146,498	240,771	477,863	155,122	
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	107	39	16	9	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-THOMPSON-CARIBOO REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Kamloops	40	3,361	$5,683,265	$745,150	$4,938,115	$1,531,449	0.31	1,470
Cariboo	34	2,168	2,914,005	442,950	2,471,055	836,838	0.339	1,139

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	8	11	+3
25 - 34	123	124	+1
35 - 44	191	214	+23
45 - 54	209	220	+11
55 - 59	70	85	+15
60- 64	55	60	+5
65 - 69	20	32	+12
70 & Over	27	23	-4
TOTAL	703	769	+63
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	3.6	3.8	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
THOMPSON CARIBOO REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Thompson Nicola	765	27.8	21,275.4	741	(1.20)	(914.9)	449	9.7	730	15.0	11,506.4	13.9	10,591.4
Kamloops	420	24.9	10,474.4	414	(1.67)	(700.1)	267	14.6	406	24.0	10,081.3	22.3	9,381.1
Squamish Lillooet	120	14.1	1,688.2	119	(0.28)	(33.5)	76	12.6	112	16.5	1,973.5	16.2	1,947.0
Cariboo	1,370	26.0	35,558.4	1,352	(2.72)	(3,727.8)	839	11.0	1,285	16.1	22,083.0	13.4	18,355.3
Central Coast	20	4.5	90.3	20	(1.07)	(21.36)	15	20.3	20	24.9	498.7	23.9	477.3

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	12,964	5,909	11,290	8,451	11,425	1,809	51,848
FARMS REPORTING	66	32	66	47	75	17	303
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	382	585	1,005	798	1,023	1,177	4,970
FARMS REPORTING	4	4	8	7	9	9	41
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	12,582	5,324	10,285	7,653	10,402	632	46,878
FARMS REPORTING	64	29	61	43	68	9	274

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	-	1	-	-	2	1	4
7-12	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
13-24	3	1	1	-	4	2	11
25-48	-	2	4	4	4	4	18
49-72	3	-	9	6	7	2	27
73-96	4	1	2	1	6	-	14
97-126	2	4	4	6	7	3	26
127-156	6	1	3	1	6	-	17
157-228	21	12	25	14	22	1	95
229-365	27	10	17	15	16	3	88
Total	66	32	66	47	75	17	303

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	145	60	211	548	1,509	6,507	8,980
FARMS REPORTING	14	6	17	35	80	62	214
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	46	37	630	272	501	4,980	5,899
FARMS REPORTING	2	2	3	9	13	36	65
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	99	23	148	276	1,008	1,527	3,081
FARMS REPORTING	12	4	14	26	70	46	172

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1982: WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	303	138	42	341	35	12	-	-	9	63
1972/73	148	142	21	85	30	3	-	-	4	28
1973/74	317	164	52	-	-	-	19	-	9	80
1974/75	502	191	96	204	66	14	106	3	4	223
1975/76	654	189	124	337	72	24	37	11	2	198
1976/77	102	230	23	-	-	-	96	-	-	119
1977/78	366	219	80	185	60	11	56	-	-	147
1978/79	454	206	93	280	93	26	36	-	2	158
1979/80	363	320	116	155	122	19	146	-	4	285
1980/81	204	240	49	123	171	21	54	-	4	128
1981/82	190	358	68	56	232	13	31	-	4	117

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE

Spraying and Dusting (any)	30
Weed Control (Hec.)	444
Farms Reporting	27
For Insect Control (Hec.)	46
Farms Reporting	8
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	15,782
Farms Reporting	265
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	8,490
Farms Reporting	201

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE

Total Area (hectares)	25,980
Tonnes	4,378
No. Reports of Any Use	516
Total Cropland (Hec.)	6,747
Tonnes	1,168
Farms Reporting	164
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	41,387
Tonnes	2,848
Farms Reporting	395
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	2,484
Tonnes	362
Farms Reporting	119

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $24 million or 80 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $21 million of this total or 17 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 26 percent to 104,200 head over the period 1976-81. The dairy industry is relatively stable with over 140 producers and 1,500 dairy cows, the majority of dairy produce is marketed locally.

Sheep production is small but expanding, mostly in small farm flocks. Most sales are direct off the farm, the sheep population has almost doubled to 2,600 since 1976. Organizations such as the Cariboo Sheep Breeders' Association ensure effective communication between producers for marketing purposes. The hog industry has experienced some contraction over the last few years, with the hog population declining by one-third since 1976. The majority of hogs are transported to Vancouver abattoirs, however there is a strong local demand for pork products.

The poultry industry appears quite stable with the chicken population experiencing virtually no change since 1976, the majority of the chicken population is concentrated in the middle to high sales brackets. Other poultry products, primarily ducks and geese have experienced some expansion, increasing 20 percent since 1976 mostly in small farm flocks.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $119,000 in 1981. Census data indicates that eleven holdings report vegetable production as a intensive activity in the Williams Lake area. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $150,000, greenhose area has almost doubled since 1976 to 4,000 square meters in 1981, most greenhose space is concentrated in the mid to low sales class holdings. Floriculture/nursery is also important, being valued at $49,000. Field crops, mostly wheat and oats totalled $67,000 in 1981 farm cash receipts. Ninety eight percent of cropland is in fodder crops, mainly tame hay and oats for fodder. Honey is also an important cash crop with 1981 receipts totalling $81,600. The beekeepers Association had a membership of approximately 80 in 1979, of whom 5 were commercial producers. There were around 740 hives producing mostly for the local market.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	28.23	0.09	0.32
Oats	21.79	0.07	0.75
Barley	17.29	0.06	0.21
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potatoes	61.36	0.20	0.33
Small Fruits	7.74	0.03	0.02
Field Vegetables	57.62	0.19	0.20
Floriculture/Nursery	49.95	0.17	0.10
Forest Prod.	217.82	0.72	9.31
Cattle & Calves	20,854.00	69.05	16.99
Income Ins.	3,033.03	10.04	
Hogs	100.04	0.33	0.19
Income Ins.	0.18	0.00	
Sheep	104.00	0.34	3.94
Income Ins.	6.11	0.02	
Poultry & Eggs	270.36	0.90	0.20
Income Ins.	0.10	0.00	
Dairy Products	2,796.17	9.26	1.29
C.D.C. Subsidy	111.64	0.37	
Honey	81.62	0.27	1.60
Tree Fruit	24.09	0.08	0.04
Income Ins.	10.29	0.03	
Hothouse	149.44	0.49	0.52
Income Ins.	5.25	0.02	
Other	2,194.53	7.27	3.21
TOTAL	30,202.70		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: WILLIAMS LAKE-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tame Hay - Total	909	498	1,425	2,495	8,188	10,569	24,082
Farms Reporting	62	34	67	66	156	84	469
Alfalfa and Mixtures	138	135	319	471	2,552	5,747	9,362
Farms Reporting	16	16	29	24	76	61	222
Other Tame Hay	771	362	1,105	2,024	5,636	4,822	14,720
Farms Reporting	53	20	53	55	115	56	352
Oats for Fodder	89	36	100	159	680	1,024	2,088
Farms Reporting	14	6	17	27	55	38	157
Other Fodder Crops	215	33	97	563	820	1,754	3,481
Farms Reporting	14	2	5	10	17	12	60

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
Vegetables	1.7	0.20	9.2	0.41	2.8	1.2	15.5
Farms Reporting	5	1	1	1	2	1	11
Asparagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	0.04	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.24
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Beets	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Broccoli	0.24	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.3
Farms Reporting	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Cabbage	0.49	-	0.81	-	-	-	1.3
Farms Reporting	4	-	1	-	-	-	5
Carrots	0.12	-	1.6	0.2	-	-	1.9
Farms Reporting	3	-	1	1	-	-	5
Caulliflower	0.04	-	1.6	-	-	-	1.7
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Cucumbers	0.04	-	0.61	-	-	-	0.65
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Green Peas	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lettuce	0.04	-	0.04	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Onions (Dry)	0.08	0.20	0.81	-	-	-	1.1
Farms Reporting	2	1	1	-	-	-	4
Rutabagas	0.08	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.28
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Sweet Corn	-	-	-	-	2.8	1.2	4.0
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Tomatoes	0.08	-	1.01	-	-	-	1.09
Farms Reporting	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Other Vegetables	0.32	-	0.41	-	-	-	0.73
Farms Reporting	3	-	1	-	-	-	4

TABLE 23
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
Small Fruits	0.2	0.2	-	-	0.72	-	1.1
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	1	-	4
Strawberries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Berries	0.20	0.20	-	-	0.72	-	1.1
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	1	-	4

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	129	47	93	95	184	91	639
Tree Fruits	1.6	3.5	-	-	-	-	5.1
Farms Reporting	4	3	-	-	-	-	7
Apple	0.93	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.9
Farms Reporting	3	3	-	-	-	-	6
No. of Apple Trees	32	157	-	-	-	-	189
Pear	0.08	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.12
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Number of Pear Trees	9	3	-	-	-	-	12
Plum and Prune	0.08	0.36	-	-	-	-	0.45
Farms Reporting	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
Number of Trees	8	31	-	-	-	-	39
Cherry (Sweet)	0.49	0.12	-	-	-	-	0.61
Farms Reporting	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
No. of Cherry Trees	41	12	-	-	-	-	53
Cherry (Sour)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peach	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
No. of Peach Trees	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Apricot	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
No. of Apricot Trees	-	3	-	-	-	-	3

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	176	188	184	91	639
Nusery Products	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.
Farms Reporting	-	1	1	-	2
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	n.a.	1,893	n.a.	-	3,949
Farms Reporting	4	3	2	-	9

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	176	188	184	91	639
Cattle-Total Number	1,852	7,941	24,095	70,292	104,180
Farms Reporting	116	152	169	88	525
Cows-Total Number	688	3,254	10,450	26,497	40,889
Farms Reporting	94	133	157	87	471
Dairy Cows-Number	149	197	385	419	1,150
Farms Reporting	50	48	30	16	144
Beef Cows-Number	539	3,057	10,065	26,078	39,739
Farms Reporting	59	112	148	83	402
Heifers-Total Number	265	1,092	2,716	9,721	13,794
Farms Reporting	74	103	139	81	397
Steers-Number	216	676	1,792	10,324	13,008
Farms Reporting	46	77	109	65	297
Bulls-Number	48	216	594	1,645	2,503
Farms Reporting	39	101	147	83	370
Calves-Number	635	2,703	8,543	22,105	33,986
Farms Reporting	92	129	149	86	456
Pigs-Total Number	195	110	97	89	491
Farms Reporting	37	29	20	12	98
Sheep-Total Number	464	1,032	781	365	2,642
Farms Reporting	22	29	29	14	94
Horses-Number	504	921	1,034	1,193	3,652
Farms Reporting	102	128	141	77	448

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

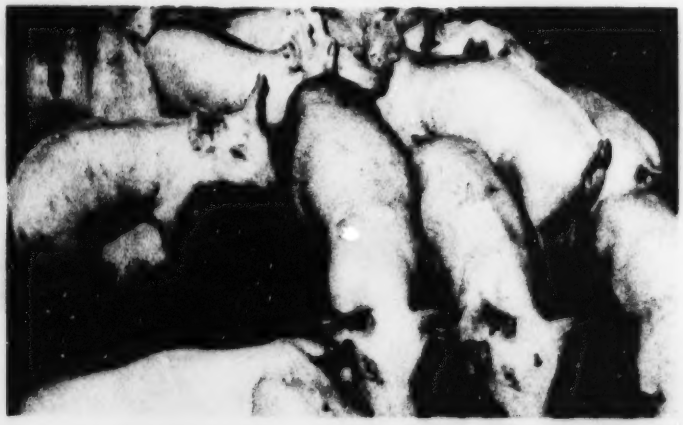


TABLE 27
WILLIAMS LAKE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	176	188	184	91	639
Hens/Chickens Total No.	2,648	3,303	12,134	1,732	19,815
Farms Reporting	78	94	86	47	305
Turkeys-Number	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farms Reporting	18	13	12	9	52
Geese-Number	128	114	325	35	602
Farms Reporting	26	18	24	7	75
Ducks-Number	121	107	420	99	747
Farms Reporting	16	19	19	9	63

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of trees planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

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